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English Land Restoration
League

Special report...1897

London

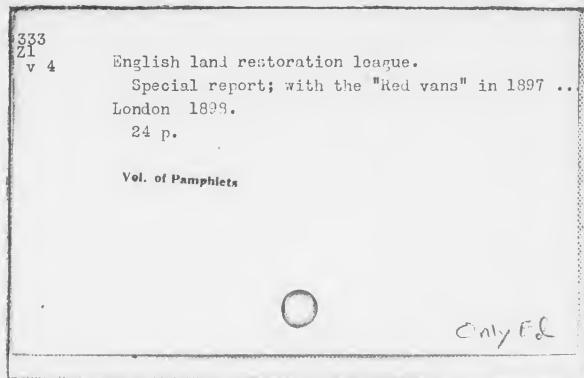
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WITH THE
"RED VANS" in 1897.



London :
OFFICES OF THE ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION LEAGUE,
376 & 377, STRAND, W.C.

—
APRIL, 1898.

ONE PENNY.

Contents of Previous "Red Van Reports."

The Reports of 1891 and 1892 are now altogether out of print. The following can be supplied:—

REPORT FOR 1893.—*Contents:* Introductory—An Important Conference—How Landlords Argue—A Reactionary County Council—The Village Greens—A Striking Contrast—Some Labourers' Budgets—The Depopulation of the Villages—Sweated Women—Slavery in East Wiltshire—The Cottage Homes of England—“Model” Villages—“Britons Never Shall be Slaves!”—The Landlord as Confiscator—Two Cartoons by “Cynicus.” [Very scarce, price 6d.]

REPORT FOR 1894.—*Contents:* Introductory—The Campaign of 1894—Imitation and Opposition—The Right of Public Meeting—The Village Schools—Parish Council Propaganda—In the Workhouse and Out of It—The Labourer's Home (with three illustrations from photographs)—Village Slums—A Question of Assessment—Some Labour Agreements—Allotment Rules—The Labour Commissioner and the Red Van Man—The Story of a Boycotted Shoemaker—Two Cartoons by “Cynicus.” [Scarce, price 3d.]

REPORT FOR 1895.—*Contents:* By Way of Preface—A French Economist on the “Red Van”—The Campaign of 1895—The Story of a Collapse—The Right of Open-Air Meeting—Many Threats and Some Prosecutions—A Silly Slander—“The Wilds of Worcestershire”—The Roads and the Unemployed—The New Councils—A Parish Council at Work—Assessments—An Example to be Followed—Access to Land—The Dog in the Manger—A County Council that would not “enquire”—How a County Council did “enquire”—“Even that which he hath”—The Value of Allotments—Allotment Law: As it is; As it Might be—Landlordism and Slavery—Cartoon by “Cynicus”—The Latest Portrait of The Late William Saunders, M.P., Hon. Treasurer of the League—Photograph of one of the Red Vans. [One Penny, post-free, 1½d.]

REPORT FOR 1896.—*Contents:* Introduction—The Outrage at Aylesbury—Justices Justice—Dangerous Bye-Laws—Indirect effects of Landlordism—A Police Prosecution at Trowbridge—A Great Victory—Exit Superintendent Tyler—An Appeal for Fair Play—“Unsolicited Testimonials”—Local Government in the Villages—Standard Relief and Parish Rates—The Duke's Parishes and the Duke's Councils—“Britons Never, Never, Never!”—“Loves Darkness rather than Light”—Parish Councils—District Councils—The “Landlord Relief Act,” 1896—Cartoon, by “Cynicus” (“The Patient Ass”)—Photograph of three Red Vans, “Ready for the Start, 1896.” [One Penny, post-free 1½d.; 5s. per 100, carriage forward.]

The Land Question: What it is, and How only it can be Solved. An Appeal to Nations. By HENRY GEORGE. New Edition. 3d. (post-free 1d.)

Landlordism: Its Origin and Growth. By JOHN WHEELWRIGHT. One Penny (post-free 1½d.)

The Taxation of Ground Values. By J. FLETCHER MOULTON, Q.C. One Penny.

Specimen Leaflets and List of Publications, post free for penny stamp.

ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION LEAGUE.

376 & 377, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

English Land Restoration League.

SPECIAL REPORT.

WILLIAM HILL

“RED VANS”

In 1897.

THE following is a complete copy, minus some under the heading “Landlordism,” of the printed title of the one remaining book in the annual “Supplemental” list, as follows:

PRICE ONE PENNY.

London:
OFFICES OF THE ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION
LEAGUE.

376 AND 377, STRAND, W.C.

April, 1898.

English Land Restoration League.

SPECIAL REPORT. 24

WITH THE

“RED VANS”

In 1897.

The greatest of all injustice is that which goes under the name of law; and, if of all sorts of tyranny, the forcing of the letter of the law against equity is the most inopportune.—L'Estrange.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

London:

OFFICES OF THE ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION
LEAGUE,

376 AND 377 STRAND, W.C.

April, 1898.

The Land Question: What it is, and how only it can be solved. An Appeal to Nations. By Frank Weston. New Edition, 1898. 3s.

Landlordism: its Origin and Growth. By James Weston. New Edition, 1898. 3s.

The Taxation of Ground Values. By T. Weston Weston. 1898. 3s.

Specimen Letters and List of Publications, &c., for many years.

ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION LEAGUE
376 & 377, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION LEAGUE.

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* These (together with the Officers of the League and one Delegate from each Club or other Society affiliated to the League) form the Executive or Members of the Van Sub-Committee (1897).
† Trustees of the "Red Van Fund."

Offices—376 & 377 STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE "RED VAN FUND" is quite distinct from the "General Fund" of the League. Cheques, Postal Orders, etc., should be made payable "to the account of the Red Van Fund," and crossed "City Bank, Liverpool." The Fund will be addressed to the General Secretary by the Clubs above mentioned. The Secretary is in a position to arrange special Lectures on "Life in our Villages," "Land and Labour in Town and Country," and similar subjects, by the various Lecturers who have been travelling with the "Red Vans." Lecture Lectures various subjects, and "Red Dudley and Quarry Bank," and other subjects, are now available. Terms on application.

* Suggestions for the "Red Van" Campaign of 1898 will be gladly received by the Secretary for consideration by the special Sub-Committee. See Appeal on page 24.

The Land Restoration Vans 1897.

REPORT.

THE five years' guarantee of £1,000 a year for the Red Van campaign expired in 1896. Unfortunately for the cause, death had removed some of the most generous supporters of the work, and others of the original guarantors were unable, for private reasons, to renew their subscriptions in full, or to renew them at all. With a diminished income, the Committee found themselves unable, in 1897, to put more than two Vans into the field. While congratulating the members and subscribers of the League on the good work which was done by these Vans, the Committee earnestly appeal for further help, in the shape of annual subscriptions, small or large, in order that at least three Vans may be sent out, in the summer of 1898, to carry on the battle against land monopoly. A landlord Cabinet, backed by a very large majority, has already voted £10,000,000 of public money to its landlord supporters, who are hungry for still further "relief" at the expense of their industrious fellow-citizens. As the day approaches when this Cabinet must submit its record to the judgment of the electors, the need for such educational work as the League carries on by means of its Red Vans becomes more and more urgent.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1897.

One of the Vans, under the charge of W. W. Bartlett, spent the whole season in Essex—the county which earned an unenviable notoriety in consequence of the pessimist Report on the condition of agriculture therein, presented to the Royal Commission on Agriculture a few years ago by Mr. Hunter Pringle: the county, too, whose reactionary Council was prevented, by the determined resistance of the League, about four years ago, from adopting a series of Bye Laws* as to Vans, which would have made it impossible to carry on Red Van work within its borders. The other Van, under the charge of George Palmer, travelled to Leicestershire, by way of Aylesbury and Northampton, and visited the villages in those electoral divisions which, for lack of time, were left unfinished in 1896. On its return journey, this Van passed, by way of Coventry and Birmingham, into a part of the Black Country which has been

* See *Red Van Report*, 1893, pp. 8-10.

brought prominently before the public during the past twelve months, in consequence of the destruction wrought by Lord Dudley's mining operations. Meetings were held in this district at Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, Dudley, Worsley, Netherton, Cradley Heath, and Kingswinford. Not the least interesting portion of the present Report will be found in those pages which expose, in somewhat unusual detail, the dealings of one particular landlord with one particular district. The fact that this landlord happens also to be a member of Her Majesty's present Government, will hardly detract from the interest of the story as revealed in Mr. Palmer's daily reports, and confirmed and illustrated by the investigations of the League Office.*

BRENTWOOD AGAIN.

The Report for 1895† records a dispute with the agents of the lord of Shenfield manor as to the right of meeting on the green. On that occasion the notice of trespass was disregarded, and two subsequent meetings were held at the same place later in the year without interference. This year the agents again threatened prosecution, and it was determined in consequence to postpone the meeting and make a special point of the right of speech in that particular place. As a result of this appeal to the inhabitants of Brentwood and district an excellent and orderly meeting of some four hundred persons assembled. Councillor George Hammond co-operated with local friends of the League in placing before them a resolution protesting against "the repeated attempts on the part of the stewards of the manor of Shenfield to deprive the people of their ancient right of meeting on the village green," which was cordially adopted. Late in September the Van on its homeward journey was diverted, in order that another meeting might be held on the green, and a smaller but good audience attended, and no interference was even threatened.

CHELMSFORD "GENTLEMEN."

Chesterfield had not on the occasions of previous visits of the Vans yielded audiences worthy of its importance. On this journey the route was so arranged that three or four meetings had been held in the vicinity before the stronghold was approached. The effect of this advertisement was seen in an audience of 500 assembled in front of the Shire Hall to hear the lecturer, who addressed them from the cannon there situated instead of from the Van. The "gentlemen," present in large numbers, interrupted freely, and at the conclusion of the proceedings mobbed the lecturer and two local friends who had taken part in the meeting. The police had a sharp tussle with these "Jubilee" enthusiasts, and conveyed the three victims to the police station, whence they departed to their respective homes later by circuitous routes. Whether the assailants were disappointed at the

* A full table of all the meetings held with the Red Vans, 1891-97, will be found in the Appendix.

† *Red Van Report*, 1895, page 5.

‡ See the issues of the *Essex Newsman* and *Essex County Chronicle* for July, 1897.

absence of the Van, or whether it was part of the "Jubilee" celebration, which at Chelmsford consisted mostly of quarrelling, cannot be determined. The effect of the incident was seen in large meetings at Great Baddow and Writley on the two following days, partially consisting of Chelmsford "gentlemen," great difficulty in securing accommodation for the Van in the neighbourhood, and probably in the attempt made at Great Baddow to turn the Van into a ditch, an attempt which was frustrated by the foresight of the lecturer in having chained and padlocked the wheel. Nor should it be disregarded that contemporaneously the lecturer reports, "Working-men very enthusiastic." Chelmsford must try again; as a famous Quaker has said, "Force is no remedy;" nor, we may add, is it an answer to reason and argument.

TORY ROWDIES AT HINCKLEY.

Hinckley, in Leicestershire, afforded similar experiences. It possesses a Market Place. The market tolls are the property, by purchase, of a Mrs. Lovett. Some years ago, the Local Board erected a lamp-post in the Market Place. Mrs. Lovett brought a successful action against the Board for opening "her" ground without her consent, and the erection of the lamp cost the town £1,800. On June 23rd, 1897, in the midst of the "Jubilee" celebrations, the Red Van arrived at Hinckley and took up its position in the Market Place, near the lamp. At two o'clock on the following morning, the lecturer was aroused from sleep by an attack upon the Van, which was moved rapidly forward till it collided with the lamp aforesaid. The police promptly secured the names and addresses of eight persons who, having just left the Conservative Club, had been seen pushing the Van. Fortunately the Van was but slightly damaged, while its inmates escaped unhurt. But the damage done to the town lamp was serious, and, in respect of this damage, the police talked of prosecuting.

On September 6th, the lecturer paid a return visit to Hinckley, and found that the affair had been hushed up. But the following statements were made on credible authority, to the lecturer: (1) That on the evening of June 23rd, at a supper held in the Conservative Club, one of the orators called attention to the Van, saying that its presence in the Market Place was a disgrace to the town, that it ought to be removed, and that thirty years ago it would have been promptly removed by the young men of the town. (2) That a band of youths, led by the son of a prominent member of the Urban District Council, subsequently tried to act on this suggestion. (3) That about £4 was paid in respect of the damage done to the lamp, and the prosecution thus averted. (4) That, in order to avoid the publication of names, the money (said to have been found by the Councillor just referred to) was paid through the funds of the Conservative Club. Comment would be superfluous.

THE "GENERAL IDEA" IN ESSEX.

The League's methods at any time may or may not be successful, but at any rate they are not stereotyped. This year, therefore, the

Essex Van worked a portion of the county in great detail; certain preliminary work had been done, and efforts made to prepare the way for a good reception by communication with known and possible friends. The intention in taking the county thus minutely was to induce some increased interest and activity in the 1890 elections of Guardians and Rural District Councillors. It need hardly be said that the League is always the English Land Restoration League, but as such it has to utilise the existing machinery of local government as a means of advancing its aims. The labourers, as at present situated, are almost incapable of helping themselves—the depopulation of rural government, vested in the hands of the large farmers, is crushing and minute. It would be some gain to the labourers were the Guardians other than their employers, and that being the case, it was deemed wise to stir up such persons as could be influenced to take their part in what the Chelmsford League referred to as a "spring cleaning" in 1898. It is too much to expect that any great effect will ensue from this campaign, but the idea has been implanted, and as Milton said, "We measure not our cause by our success, but our success by our cause."

The route was by Barking and Hornchurch to Grays, thence to Pitsea, Brentwood, Ingatestone, Wickford, Chelmsford, Witham, Braintree, Coggeshall, Halstead, Yeldham, Finchingfield, Hadstock, Elmdon, Saffron Walden, Thaxted, Dunmow, Harlow, Epping, Ongar, Brentwood again, and Romford. Between each of these places the route curled in and out, so that two out of every three villages in the unions visited were given opportunity to hear the lecturer at their own doors.

Among so many small places, and many with scattered population, it was inevitable that there should be some where the attendance was small. The scantiness of population will be better realised when it is mentioned that on many farms one labourer per 100 acres is employed. The unions of Saffron Walden, Dunmow, and Ongar have a total area of 181,698 acres, and a population (1901) of 45,009, i.e., over four acres per head; it is not surprising, therefore, to find that individual parishes in these unions have eight acres, and occasionally even more, per head, under which circumstances an audience of 50 men needs collecting assiduously. But in spite of this difficulty, the audiences were generally good. In the towns and large villages from 100 to 500 assembled; harvesting operations, and to a slight extent, jubilee fêtes, disappointed the lecturer here and there; but commonly, audiences of 20 and 25 were obtained in villages of 300 to 400 inhabitants, and of 50, or on favourable occasions up to 100 in rather larger and more concentrated parishes. In Willingale Doe, with a population of 871, an audience of 100, men, women and children, assembled.

DISTRESSED ESSEX.

When it was desired to make out a case for the Agricultural Rating Act, Essex was painted black, and there was talk of land to be had rent free; but this was only a move in the game and Essex a pawn—and a stupid pawn. It is true that the county was hard hit by the

low price of corn, and that for years rough pasture had been increasing at the expense of arable land. This is no light matter, least of all for Essex labourers, but it is a different thing from the idea sedulously spread abroad that the land was idle and could be had for nothing. The report had the effect of depressing prices, and Essex landholders have probably lost more by reason of this than they have gained up to now by the Agricultural Rating Act. The irony of that Act, which was professedly intended to help the distressed districts, consists in the fact that the said districts get the smallest relief per acre of all agricultural land in the country. This fact has been discovered by Essex farmers.

In the heart of the supposed derelict farms, building operations have been proceeding for some two or three years, since railway facilities have made the district available for residence, and as a consequence land speculation has set in. The lecturer reports that at Pitsea landholders "are making desperate efforts to sell their land in small plots at an average of £22 per acre." At Wickford and Downham periodical auctions are held, but the dealings are mainly by speculators apparently. But after making due allowance for this new factor, the change from arable to pasture has been too widespread to be overlooked in the county as a whole. The result to the labourers has been a great falling-off in the demand for their services, and a steady exodus to the towns, especially to riverside work.

Wages in the villages, unless affected by the presence of an industry other than agricultural, are generally 11s. and 12s. a week in the summer, falling in parts of the Dunmow and Saffron Walden Unions to 10s. In some parishes the winter wages are a shilling less than the summer; harvest money varies, but is generally from 20s. to £1. At Elmdon, on the Cambridgeshire border, wages were found to be 9s. summer and winter, with 4d harvest money; this may be regarded as low-water mark for men in regular employment. The extent to which unemployment prevails in winter depends on the weather very largely, but assuming a man to have no idle weeks, his income may be considered to range from 10s. 6d. to 13s. per week according to the district. The rent of cottages, which almost invariably rises with wages, varies from one shilling to half-a-crown in the agricultural parishes.

THE REAL BLACK ESSEX.

It would need a map on a very large scale to show the real black Essex. There would be less sensational selection of one part of the county, and a more regular distribution of the black spots than in the map issued with Mr. Hunter Pringle's report of 1894 to the Royal Commission on Agriculture.

Some villages would be free, but not many, and some would show every residence but two or three blotted out as disgraces to the owners and the rural district councils. The cottages of Essex, and the water supply of their inhabitants, are in many of the villages deplorably bad, and, in spite of the depopulation which has been proceeding, sometimes the former are quite inadequate in number to

the needs of the labourers. At Navestock, in Ongar Union, the lecturer found ten small cottages in a row inhabited on the average by ten persons each. Some cottages at Maplestead and Pebmarsh, he describes as hovels. But these are only a degree worse than those in other villages; the description "small; bad condition," recurs constantly in the reports. The borough of Saffron Walden deserves reference; in that sanctuary of the Society of Friends, where a publican is regarded as almost an outcast, "the labourers' cottages are all in one quarter—a horrible kind of labourers' *ghetto*, of which Castle Street is the centre. The houses are small, inconvenient, without proper air space, and in insanitary condition. Some few have a few square yards of drying ground."

The water question is exceedingly urgent in many parishes, and likely to remain so. Certain District Councillors, like other more exalted personages, are adherents of "private enterprise" principles. The thing which they do does not differ from the proceedings of any properly constituted water company in principle, but it lacks legal sanction. They have the water supply of the parish in their possession—the only well, spring, or decent pond, is on their farm—and they retail water to the inhabitants at per bucket. The importance of this proceeding on the part of District Councillors lies in their being the water authority for the district; their position as representatives of their parishes entitles them, and that rightly, to be considered by the Council as the authority on its needs and desires. In other parishes the owners of wells give water to their neighbours; sometimes a whole block of cottages is dependent upon a public-house for its supply. At Wimblish, near Saffron Walden, the "inhabitants dip water from pools"; at West Hammingfield, the only supply is in private hands, is a ditch or pond, also used as a sheep-wash; and at many places, pond water, sometimes described as "ropy" by the drinkers, or as the humorous chairman of the Billericay Council said of the supply in his parish, as "better than medicine," is all that is available for the labourers and sometimes the farmers as well.

FARMER AND LABOURER.

The characteristic Essex farm is a large one, but the size of individual holdings here and there is abnormal. A thousand acres is by no means uncommon, several farmers hold two thousand acres or more, nor is the limit reached when another thousand is added. Sometimes the concentration is due to the farms having been shroumed on the hands of the landholders, who cultivate them through bailiffs; elsewhere it is an accompaniment of the conversion from arable to pasture. The large cultivators frequently hold part and rent part of their farms, employ generally few labourers, and are omnipotent in their districts. A labourer who gets a bad name from one of them is, therefore, at a great disadvantage, and in consequence the labourers are probably more dependent than in any county in England.

Allotments are generally small in extent; many parishes have none. Where they exist the rent is commonly five or six times as great as is paid by farmers. As the working hours in summer are

from 6 a.m. to 5, 5.30, or 6 p.m., and in winter from light to dark, or to any time in the evening during hay-making and harvest, it is obvious that spare time and energy for the display of "private enterprise" would not be plentiful. Part of the glebe land which is let as allotments at West Hammingfield at 40s. per acre, was roadside waste within the memory of an inhabitant, some fifty years ago. So is that bulwark of freedom, private property in land, strengthened even in this degenerate century!

In such a county parish councils can seldom exercise much influence; one of their most useful functions has been to take over the charities. For example, the Parish Council of Navestock has taken over Green's Charity, and distributed in 1895, 94, and in 1896, 106 tickets, each worth half-a-guinea, to be expended in boots. But previously 10 to 20 tickets only were distributed. Otherwise they have at times been useful as thorns in the side of the Rural District Councils. Any improvements by the latter bodies are largely due to the initiative of the Parish Councils; some of the more important villages have done what they could for themselves in the provision of street lamps, mending of footpaths, and other small activities, but those which really desire to make substantial improvements have found it necessary to apply for urban powers. The Rural District Councils are controlled absolutely by the large farmers, to whom sanitation is frequently a "fad" and always an extravagance.

THE "LIVING WAGE" IN LEICESTERSHIRE.

At the time of the Van's visit, the *Labour Gazette* was giving a depressing account of the industries of Leicestershire. Mr. Palmer only heard of one pit in the country where the men were working full time, i.e., five days a week. Saturday was universally regarded as a holiday. Most of the miners were only working two days a week. A few years ago, in the lead miners' look-out, the men stood out for a "living wage." Since then they have had to submit to a reduction of ten per cent., so that the average earnings of a Leicestershire miner were, last summer, less than two-fifths of a "living wage." The coal worked in the county is mostly house-coal, for which the demand is comparatively small in summer, but even during the winter there is not, on the average, more than four days' work a week. Improved tools enable the coal to be won more easily than formerly, and this has led to a decrease in the price paid per ton to the miners. The pit workers themselves seemed hopeless. "Things will never be good in the mines about here again," they said. The price paid ranged from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 7d. a ton, according to the depth of the seam. It is said that a good man cannot get more than three tons a day. The "tubs" in which the coal is taken up have to be filled with a fork, of which the prongs are four inches apart. Any coal which is small enough to fall through the fork is paid for, but in some pits the men have to fill as many as three tubs a day with the small coal, so as to get it out of the way. For this work they are paid nothing, besides which the bottoms of the tubs have to be filled with large coal (say 3 cwt. to a tub), to prevent the small

from falling through, and this, of course, represents a dead loss. Each man has to provide his own tools (costing, it is said, about £6) and each gang or "stall" of five men finds its own blasting-powder and candles, at a cost often amounting to 14s. a week. As the mines are free from gas, blasting and open lights can safely be used. In the summer, the miners get odd jobs where they can. Leicestershire farmers employ very few regular hands, and the miners can, therefore, obtain work during harvest and harvest at a pay of about 3s. a day. The low wages and, consequently, small purchasing power of the colliery districts, re-aet seriously on the other local trades, in which it was officially reported, "slackness for the most part prevails."

THE LORD OF DUDLEY.

The labours of the Lords' Select Committee on the Sweating System, some eight years ago, conferred an unenviable notoriety upon the "Black Country." In the exposure of the industrial conditions there prevailing—and especially of the sweated industries of chain and nail making—the Rev. Harold Rylett—a member of the League, and now a member of its Executive—took an active part.*

The greatest territorial magnate in this distressed district is William Humble Ward, second Earl of Dudley, of Dudley Castle, co. Staffordshire, Viscount Ednam, of Ednam, co. Roxburgh, and Baron Ward, of Birmingham, co. Warwick. The gentleman who bears these sufficiently imposing titles, although possessor of a ruined castle dating probably from Saxon times, comes of an entirely undistinguished and by no means ancient family.[†] He is, however, an Alderman of the Worcestershire County Council, has been more than once Mayor of Dudley, and was, till lately, the representative of the Holborn division of Finsbury in the London County Council. He is, moreover, Lord High Steward of Kidderminster, and holds office in the present Government as Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade.[‡] In this capacity, by a stroke of unconscious humour, the noble Lord, at a time when he was wrecking the homes, destroying the industries, and dispersing the population of Quarry Bank for his private profit, was sent, last year, to act as mediator in the case of another land monopolist, Lord Penrhyn, who was acting in much the same way towards the workers of Bethesda. According to the return of 1883, he was the "owner" of no less than 25,554 acres of land in the

* Fifth Report (1890), pp. xxv.—xxxii., Third Report (1889), pp. 27—467.

⁴ Dugdale, in giving the origin of the present line, says of the ninth Lord Dudley (or Sutton de Dudley) that "bekating himselfe to a companion, on whom he had divers chyldren, he so farre forsook his wifes compaunce, that hee left his dode with debts, that for the distayng inheritance which descended to him, and it so dogled with debts, that for the distayng inheritance thereof hee married Frances, his granddaughter and heire to Humble Ward, the only son of Willard Ward, a wealthy goldsmith in London, jeweler to the late Queen." (Dugdale's Baronage, ed. 1675, p. 111.)

Lord Dudley was appointed to this office in succession to Thomas Burt, a working miner. His lordship's chief Parliamentary distinction is that he wrecked the Employers' Liability Bill.

counties of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Merionethshire, Shropshire, and Roxburghshire, and his rent tail was reported at £123,176 per annum.* He is the patron of thirteen livings: of Old Swinford, Kidderminster, Great Witley, Stourbridge, Shelsley, Shelsley Beauchamp, Holt, and Dudley; in Worcestershire; of Kingswinford, Himley, St. Mary's (Kingswinford), Pensnett, and Sedgeley, in Staffordshire. He has seats at Witley Court, Stourport; at Himley Hall, Dudley; and at Crogen, Corwen, Merionethshire, besides a residence in London.

THE TOWN OF DUDLEY.

"In the town of Dudley," the lecturer reports, "all kinds and sorts of industries are represented. Very few of the workers are in any trade organisation. Wages are low.

"The Earl of Dudley is 'owner' of most of the land, and of all that is under the land, and of most that is on the land.

"A fountain in the centre of the town was presented by Lord Dudley. A Lord Dudley erected the Town Hall, which the Corporation purchased from him. The cemetery was given to the town by the late Lord Dudley. At the junction of Castle Hill and Castle Street is a statue to the late Lord Dudley. The late Lord Dudley built the Guest Hospital and presented it to the Trustees of the Guest Charity. The Dispensary stands on a site given by the late Lord Dudley. The late Lord Dudley subscribed £500 towards the Mechanics' Institute. The present Lord Dudley is Mayor of the town."

The Dudleys are evidently of the tribe of those who as Tolstoi says, will do anything for the people, "except to get off their backs."

"This is absolutely the worst town I have ever been in," continued the lecturer. "Within a stone's-throw of the Market Place are to be found some of the vilest slums which 'Christian England' can be ashamed of. In some courts of Birmingham Street—property said to be owned by Lawyer Bourne—there are eight cottages, the inhabitants of all of which have to use two closets of a bad, old construction. There is no water at all in this court; it has all to be fetched from adjoining property which is reputed to belong to the lawyer's sister. In another court off Birmingham Street is a filthy

"This is probably an under-estimate. Speaking of a former Earl Dudley, the *Daily Telegraph* said once (in a leading article, May 9th, 1895):—'He died in 1835, when his son—the nobleman who died last Thursday—succeeded as Lord Ward, to one of the noblest fortunes in the United Kingdom, of which he was the tenth owner. He was a man of a low order—but that his income had exactly five millions. Assuming that he had spent half of it, he would leave a sum of £1,000,000 per annum for half-a-century, it will be seen that at least five million sterlings must have passed through his hands. In the year when the coal famine was raging with greatest intensity, it was computed that the Earl of Lard Dudley was worth £1,000,000 more than he had got from his coal and iron mines in that single year, which amounted to not much less than one million of pounds in that single year.' When candidate for West Nottingham, John Burne accused Lord Dudley of giving £17,300 for an antiquated bullock-jug, while he paid his miners £100 a week for their labour."

† The Vicar of Dudley (appointed by the Earl of Dudley) is patron of the local parishes of St. Edmund's, St. James, St. John's, St. Luke's, St. Augustine's, and



STOUR HILL, QUARRY BANK, SHOWING RUINS OF HOUSES.



BRICK KILN STREET, QUARRY BANK. RUINS OF PART OF STEVENS AND CO.'S GALVANIZED IRON WORKS.



MERRY HILL, QUARRY BANK. RUINS OF WILLIAM ATTWOOD'S HOUSE.



SHOP IN EVERE STREET, QUARRY BANK, WITH RUINS OF ABOUT TWENTY HOUSES.

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

12



STOUR HILL, QUARRY BANK, SHOWING RUINS OF HOUSES.

13



MERRY HILL, QUARRY BANK. RUINS OF WILLIAM ATWOOD'S HOUSE



BRICK KILN STREET, QUARRY BANK. RUINS OF PART OF STEVENS AND CO'S GALVANISED IRON WORKS.



SHOP IN EVER STREET, QUARRY BANK, WITH RUINS OF ABOUT TWENTY HOUSES

slum said to be owned by the Dudley Roman Catholic Church. Two shillings a week is collected for the rent of each cottage.

"An inhabitant of one of these cottages kept some pigeons. The sanitary inspector came round and insisted on the man lime-washing his pigeon-house. But no steps appear to be taken to compel the owners to lime-wash any of the places inhabited by the unfeathered bipeds of the Dudley slums.

"In fact, the greater part of the cottage property here is in a frightful condition. Many would gladly pay more rent in order to have a better home, but decent cottages are not to be had.

"Dudley, I am told, has a good drainage system, and, as the town is built on a hill, there is every opportunity for an excellent fall, but none of these properties are connected up. Slops, &c., are emptied outside the houses, and these slums have, consequently, what is practically an open sewer running through them.

"Earl Dudley is graciously pleased to allow the public free access to the grounds of Dudley Castle (ruined). The grounds form the one oasis in a desert of filth; the limestone has all been taken out from under them, and the nature of the ground is such that it cannot be used for building purposes.*

"I was very glad to turn my back on Dudley, and hope that I may never have to go there again, although I received great kindness from some of the working-men who live there."

NETHERTON.

In this dismal district the Earl of Dudley claims to be the owner of the extremely valuable deposits of coal, iron, and limestone which are found buried at a greater or smaller depth, and which sometimes crop out at the very surface. At Netherton, for instance, in the borough of Dudley, there are very many pits, and three seams of coal are being worked. While the coal, oddly enough, all "belongs" to Lord Dudley, the noble Earl does not always "work it himself." Some of the mines are worked by capitalists on the royalty system, others by a middleman, called a butty, who is paid so much a ton for all the coal he gets out, while he pays the men whom he employs to get it as little as he can by the day.

Five or six years ago the surface at Netherton began to give way, owing to the mining operations of Lord Dudley. Now there is hardly a house (more than five years old) in the place which stands at right angles to the face of the earth. The leaning houses of Netherton are not so well known to travellers as is the Leaning Tower of Pisa, but, in their way, they are not less remarkable. Many houses fell down

* Lord Dudley's agent states that the surface at which the mines at Quarry Bank lies, entirely precludes the idea of supporting the surface by laying an iron and stone slab. People who have visited the well-known old limestone workings at Dudley Castle, state that support was left there hundreds of years ago, which has not given way to this day, although the workings are on a similar angle to those at Quarry Bank. The Red Van Lecturer has a pamphlet on "The Decay of Dudley," pp. 17. This pamphlet, to the general accuracy of which the Red Van lecturer is able from personal investigation to bear testimony, contains much valuable information upon the whole subject.

altogether, and have had to be rebuilt. The Primitive Methodist Chapel suffered badly. The Congregational Chapel collapsed, and was rebuilt. The Crown Inn has sunk about ten feet: what was formerly the first floor bedroom is now the taproom, entered from and level with the road. The houses opposite the Inn are eight to ten feet below the level of the highway.

The Board School and several places of worship are built of corrugated iron, so as to minimise damage from subsidence, and cheapen rebuilding. The Great Western Railway's Goods Station—on land leased from Lord Dudley—has been raised three times, and is even now below the level of the road.

Some of the inhabitants have saved their property by purchasing the mines under it, i.e., they have paid Lord Dudley *not* to take the coal from under their foundations.* The Borough has had to spend large sums in re-making roads and re-laying drains. This is, perhaps, why the inhabitants have elected and re-elected not only Lord Dudley, but Lord Dudley's agent, Mr. Claughton, as Mayor of the Borough.

THE "ENCLOSURE" OF PENSNETT CHASE.

The ancient and extensive parish of Kingswinford was divided in 1894 into three parishes—Kingswinford (which includes Wordsley, Brockmoor, and Pensnett), Brierley Hill, and Quarry Bank. Most of these are now busy urban communities. Quarry Bank, as its name implies, lies mainly on the slope of a hill facing the south. It consists of a broad main street, running from north to south, with streets at right angles to it. The population, which in 1891 numbered 6,732, elects, under the Act of 1894, an Urban District Council, to which the management of some of the affairs of the community is entrusted. Other affairs, vital to the pockets of the householders, and even to the very existence of the community, were, by another Act, long ago, made to depend upon the will of an hereditary and irresponsible despot, who has no fear of elections, annual or triennial, before his eyes. For an Act (24 George III, c. 18) was passed in 1784—in the days of "pocket boroughs," when the landlords had almost a complete monopoly of the "representation of the people" in the "Commons" House, as well as a large permanent majority in the House of Lords—for the enclosure of Pensnett Chase. The surface of the commons and waste of the Parish and Manor of Kingswinford were, under this Act, to be divided among the freeholders, the Lord of the Manor—Lord Dudley's predecessor in title—getting, of course, by far the largest share.† Besides this large addition to his

* Brierley Hill suffered from similar subsidence a few years ago, as is still evident from the fact that many of the houses are cramped with iron. One inhabitant told the lecturer that the damage done to his premises cost him £300 to repair, but that he had no legal remedy. The Local Board purchased the coal under part of the High Street to save the town from destruction.

† In 1891 the land had been laid off in plots. Land as a result of an examination of the awards goes to show that Lord Dudley's predecessor received over one-half of the total area (649 a. 3 r. 14 p. out of 1,233 a. 3 r. 27 p.), but Lord Dudley's solicitors maintain that his share was much less than this.

freehold, the Lord secured also the very valuable right to work the minerals not only under the enclosed land specially allotted to him, but under the whole of the Chase. In case of damage done by him, in the working of the mines, the Act made not the Lord only, but all the freeholders, liable. But now that damage is actually being done by Lord Dudley's mining operations, his lordship alleges, and his victims sorrowfully admit, that the compensation clause will not work. It is possible that it was never intended to work.

QUARRY BANK.

After the enclosures, Lord Dudley's ancestors, and probably some of the other freeholders, sold portions of the surface of what had once been the Chase for building purposes. The little township of Quarry Bank, with its dwelling-houses, its shops, its factories, schools, churches, and chapels, grew up on the slope of the hill, and—as things go in the Black Country—prospered. Within the last few years, Lord Dudley has asserted his right to mine for coal and iron under these buildings—many of them standing on land which his predecessors in title sold expressly for building purposes. Owing to the angle at which the coal lies (45°), to its great thickness (8 to 10 yards), to its comparatively small depth below the surface (40 or 50 yards), and, it is alleged, to the neglect of Lord Dudley to prop up the surface after the coal had been extracted, the houses of Quarry Bank have suffered so much damage that the general appearance of the place would suggest a recent earthquake or a bombardment.

THE ENGLISHMAN'S CASTLE AT QUARRY BANK.

Stour Hill and Merry Hill were demolished some time ago. The High Street and New Street districts have suffered more recently. Old houses, some of which have been occupied by the same family for generations, many of them representing the savings of a hard-working lifetime, and quite new buildings erected within the last few years, have alike suffered. The houses of Quarry Bank, where they have not fallen into utter ruin, may be seen in all stages of destruction, the walls leaning at all kinds of angles, often cracked from top to bottom, sometimes with the window frames and glass broken into fragments by the movements of the walls. People walking along the streets or sitting in the houses can hear the shots fired in the mines under their feet, and feel the foundations shake as the coal is brought down. In the spring of 1897, notice was given to 70 families at once, numbering about 300 souls, that they could only continue to occupy their homes at the risk of their lives. If the Englishman's house be his castle, it is, at Quarry Bank, often reduced to a condition as ruinous, though by no means as picturesque, as Dudley Castle itself. But the hard-working miner or chainmaker or shopkeeper of Quarry Bank, unlike Lord Dudley, has no Himley Hall or Whitley Court or Crogen House to retire to when his poor "castle" is laid in ruins.

HOW BUSINESS SUFFERS.

Lord Dudley is Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. He must, one would think, sometimes give a thought to the effect of his mining operations on the trade of the unfortunate district which owns him as its Lord of the Manor. Shops as well as houses have been wrecked. Businesses, built up by laborious industry, have been ruined. Soon after the visit of the Red Van, one of the victims—a local tradesman—made his appearance in the Bankruptcy Court.* He testified that he would have been solvent but for the demolition of two houses belonging to him in Quarry Bank. One of these, in New Street, had been built by his father. The other, in Brick-kiln Street, he had built himself, at a cost of £300. Mr. Albert Shaw's mineral water factory has been wrecked. Mr. Stevens' galvanised iron works—employing about 300 persons—has had to be removed to another neighbourhood, the old buildings collapsing one after another into shapeless masses of ruins.

DANGER TO LIFE AND LIMB.

It is, of course, impossible that the buildings in Quarry Bank should have been wrecked in the way described without causing much danger to the inhabitants. Accidents and "hairbreadth escapes" are frequently reported in the local papers. The photographers who prepared the lantern slides for the League, frequently did so at great personal risk, standing on or near tottering buildings to photograph buildings which had already fallen. In one case, a man, horse, and cart were reported to have sunk bodily into the ground in a sudden "crowning-in." Quite recently† the surveyor reported that, owing to the props which had been put up to support buildings, there was great danger to persons passing along the streets at night, and the District Council decided to put out bills warning the public against this danger.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

As long ago as 1895, the Medical Officer of Health reported that: "Owing to the extensive mining operations which have threatened the district, and the approaching deep drainage scheme, very little new sewerage or draining has been done."‡ In the same report it was stated that:

"The case of *overcroding* have occurred, eight of which were abated after notice. Three houses have been condemned as unfit for habitation, and were either abandoned or their defects remedied. Owing to mining operations a large number of houses have been pulled to the ground, or more or less completely wrecked, especially in Stour Hill, Evers Street, and Merry Hill."

*At Stourbridge Court House, case of Joseph Parrock, November 25. (Birmingham Daily Mail, November 26, 1897.)

†Urban District Council meeting, January 11. (Birmingham Post, January 12, 1898.)

‡Report of Dr. Tibbets for year ending December 31, 1895.

A worse state of overcrowding would have supervened but for the removal of the bucket factory to Cradley.

The "drainage" of Quarry Bank is still of the most primitive and inadequate description. Cases of infectious disease were reported on October 12th last; yet on December 14th the urgently-needed sewerage scheme was, for the old reason, still further postponed, the Council meanwhile complaining that they were contributing to the main sewerage without getting any benefit whatever, and that the drain which carried off the surface water from the upper end of the township had been broken up, so that, when a shower of rain occurred, the road was like a quagmire.*

At the same meeting six cases of scarlet fever were reported, and it was stated that the township was on the verge of an epidemic, which could only be dealt with by means of an isolation hospital. Owing to the destruction of rateable property, the Council could not afford this. On January 11th a largely-increased death-rate (29·46) was reported. The Local Government Board had sanctioned the raising of a loan for sewerage works, but the clerk had been obliged to tell the Board that the works could not be proceeded with owing to Lord Dudley's mining operations. Gangs of men are constantly employed in mending the water mains (and gas pipes) broken by the subsidence of the roadways, due to Lord Dudley's mining operations.

Is Lord Dudley prepared to stand on his "legal rights" till the population of the district is decimated by an epidemic?

QUARRY BANK DAY BY DAY.

Some idea of what life in Quarry Bank means under the rule of Lord Dudley may be gathered from the following rough diary for the week during which the Red Van was in the district:—

Sept. 12. Part of Bucket Factory and other buildings in vicinity collapsed. Part of Methodist Schoolroom fell down.
 Sept. 13. Water main fractured in High Street, sending out a jet of water 20 feet high. George Dimmock's house flooded.
 Sept. 14. Councillor Albert Shaw (of the ruined mineral water factory) called on Lord Dudley. Lord Dudley, in his resolution of 13th July last, ordering that a full report of the position of the district on account of the mining operations of the Earl of Dudley be sent to the Local Government Board "be rescinded. (This was done, avowedly, in deference to Lord Dudley's wish that "agitation should cease.") Stour Hill Bridge admitted to be inadequate to the needs of the district and dangerous to wheel traffic. Reconstruction postponed, because Lord Dudley's agent proposes to mine under the foundations.

Sept. 17. Reparation from Primitive Methodist Chapel, New Street, Quarry Bank, whilst on the Kingswinford School Board, as for loan of Board School for Sunday School (about 500 scholars) and for services (congregation about 500). It was stated that there was still a debt of £150 on the wrecked buildings, and that fourteen

* The surveyor was ordered to repair the drain temporarily. (*Birmingham Argus*, Dec. 15, 1897.)

officials of the chapel owned £5,000 worth of endangered property. (Owing to the condition of the chapel building the organ was shortly afterwards dismantled and sold. The men who removed it did so at great risk.)

Sept. 19. The Swan Inn cracked from top to bottom.

To which one other item may be added, by way of further illustration:—

Sept. 23. The London *Daily Chronicle* drew attention to the case of a working miner, named Trustram, who some years ago borrowed money to erect four houses at Quarry Bank at a cost of £660. After many years of hard work he managed to pay off the mortgage. Lord Dudley's undermining operations destroyed the whole of his property, and Lord Dudley's agent disclaimed all liability for compensation, but offered him £10 (*ten pounds!*) as "an act of grace."

HOW THE RATEPAYERS COMPENSATE LORD DUDLEY.

It is not only the homes and the industries, the Sunday schools and the chapels, of the people of Quarry Bank that are being ruined by Lord Dudley. The whole of the Local Government and of the municipal services of the township are equally at his mercy. It has already been shown that the District Council is being impoverished and starved by the wholesale destruction of rateable hereditaments, while local expenses are being increased by the crowning-in of the roads. The proper drainage of the district has to await Lord Dudley's pleasure at the risk of an epidemic. In almost every discussion at the District Council the dominant factor is "Lord Dudley's mining operations." The chairman of the Kingswinford School Board, in his recent annual review of the work of the Board, showed that Lord Dudley, even under these circumstances, is not too proud to accept money from the impoverished ratepayers. The Rev. H. Stretton told the Board that:—

The purchase of mines £570, and at Quarry Bank, £1,320, or a total of £2,490. The Board was at present arranging for a further purchase and exchange of mines at Quarry Bank at a cost of £300. He might say on the subject that the Board and the ratepayers might, he thought, be now reasonably satisfied that their schools would be safe from damage by the mining operations at Quarry Bank, which were doing so much injury to surrounding property. It was necessary for the Board to secure their schools, as far as possible, from damage. Of course it was not absolutely certain that they had gained their object, but he thought the Board had done all it could in that direction.

DOOMED BROCKMOOR.

When the Van visited Quarry Bank, the neighbouring district of Brockmoor was beginning to suffer from the effects of the monstrous Enclosure Act of 1784. It is not necessary here to describe the results to Brockmoor of Lord Dudley's undermining: it would be merely to repeat the description of Quarry Bank. A heartrending account of the subsidences at Brockmoor appeared in the *Brierley Hill Advertiser* of January 29th, 1898.

A WRONG WITHOUT A REMEDY.

It is sometimes said that there is no wrong without a remedy. But this does not apply to *legalised wrongs*.

No remedy has yet been found for the injury inflicted on the industrious people of the district by the lord of the manor. An appeal to law* was unsuccessful. Lord Dudley's colleagues in the Government all with one accord protest that the matter does not come within the scope of their departments. The working miners belong to no Trade Union, and cannot, therefore, be induced to abandon the "civil war" in which they act at the rank and file of the aggressors. The compensation clause has never been put into operation. A "Surface Owners' Association" was able to do nothing. A "Mines Committee" was formed with a view to purchasing the coal from Lord Dudley, but at the last moment some of the house-owners had to withdraw, owing to the exorbitant terms and impossible conditions demanded by his lordship. Finally, about the time of the Van's visit, some sort of agreement was come to between some of the surface owners and the Dudley Estate. Those who had backed out of the purchase scheme were excluded from the benefits, such as they were, of this agreement, one of the conditions of which was that all agitation was to be stopped.

On these terms, Lord Dudley deposited a sum (said to be £300) in the names of certain of the sufferers, not by way of compensation for damage done, but as a matter of grace and favour on the part of his lordship, and, as was reported at the time, to relieve cases of urgent distress. There is understood to be a promise to take greater care in mining, and to "cog up" the workings after the coal is extracted. The Earl's mining engineer is to visit Quarry Bank, and to advise as to the best means of protecting the property. The Earl undertakes to supply iron for cramping, and wood for shoring, threatened houses, but the owners are to provide the necessary labour. All this seems a very small price to pay for the luxury of desolating a district, and destroying houses and businesses which often represent the industry and savings of a lifetime.

A VANISHED MAP.

One of the difficulties in the way of enforcing the compensation clause of the Act of 1784 has been that the boundaries of the ancient Chase have not been known. The attention of the Home Secretary was called to this on July 27th, by a question which Mr. Brynmor Jones, Q.C., M.P., put to him, at the request of the London Quarry Bank Committee. ¶ Mr. Jones asked the Home Secretary—

* Bell v. Lord Dudley (Nov. 30, 1894).

¶ So rigorously was this enforced that the Urban District Council, which passed a resolution to lay all the facts about the subsidence before the Local Government Board, and requested it to make reference to Lord Dudley's mandate against "agitation." Mr. Alberta Shire, then some time member of the "Committee of Inspection" by stating (at a meeting of the District Council on January 11, 1898) that "the money was given to pay the expenses of the Committee for two years hard work."

¶ This Committee consisted of the Executive of the League, with the addition of a number of Members of Parliament and others interested in the sufferers of Quarry Bank.

Whether he was aware that the Kingswinford Enclosure Act made provision that copies of the map annexed to the award of the Commissioners, showing the common lands allotted under the Act, should be deposited in the parish church of Kingswinford, in the county of Stafford, and in one of her Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster; whether he was aware that the copy deposited in the said parish church had disappeared, and that the copy in the Court of Justice of the Peace of Staffordshire at Westminster, and indeed of three, could no longer be found, and that the sole copy now remaining was in the hands of the Lord of the Manor of Kingswinford (Lord Dudley); whether he was aware that, owing to the subsidence of the soil at Quarry Bank, in the said parish, caused by mining operations, there were other persons which rendered access to the said map necessary; and whether, under these circumstances, he could see his way to having a certified copy of the said map made and deposited in the Record Office.

A LANDLORD WHO IS NOT IN FAVOUR OF COMPENSATION.

There seems to be a good deal here which requires explaining, but no explanation has, so far, been forthcoming.

As a matter of fact, no compensation whatever seems to have been paid by or on behalf of Lord Dudley for all the ruin he has brought upon his industrious neighbours. In some instances, sums of a very few pounds have been given by the agent to sufferers whose houses have been rendered unfit for habitation. This seems to have been given as charitable relief, to enable rent to be paid elsewhere while the buildings were patched up. One tradesman, who was driven out of his house for 26 weeks, received £3, a sum which would not pay for the iron and timber used in cramping and shoring his damaged premises. No one regards the £300, about which so much fuss has been made, as compensation. From Lord Dudley's point of view, it is probably regarded as a very profitable investment, for it has stopped the local agitation for compensation. It is interesting to note that Mr. Claughton professes himself satisfied at the way in which the money has been disbursed. He has every reason to be satisfied.

APPENDIX.

SEVEN YEARS OF RED VAN PROPAGANDA.

COUNTY.	1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897								TOTALS.
	*	†	‡	§	•	†	‡	§	
Bedfordshire	2	163	...	...	...	...	165
Berkshire	...	140	84	52	5	13	...	...	294
Buckingham	...	2	8	7	17	16	6	...	56
Cambridge	...	180	...	3	...	...	...	...	188
Devon	53	...	...	...	...	53
Essex	...	4	7	5	23	...	124	...	48
Gloucester	...	2	...	57	115	...	...	...	174
Hampshire	...	2	...	8	...	...	...	...	10
Hereford	...	98	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Hertford	...	2	183	23	...	...	6	...	164
Huntingdon	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Kent	...	88	18	...	...	103	72	...	51
Leicester	1	...	...	1
Lincoln	...	85	7	8	42	6	2	...	95
Middlesex	2	...	...	2
Monmouth	1	4	2	11	6	...	24
Northampton	62	102	107	...	...	...	271
Norfolk	...	5	4	1	2	2	1	...	15
Oxfordshire	...	182	...	6	2	...	...	...	140
Somerset	...	165	10	3	24	...	...	6	6
Suffolk	2	1	2	1	...	...	6
Surrey	...	3	113	167	32	...	7	...	322
Warwick	...	2	182	167	3	131	...	...	435
Wiltshire	...	4	5	80	...	2	...	...	41
Worcester
	165	598	581	709	461	418	232	3,157	

* One van only in 1891.

† In 1894, a large number of additional indoor meetings, the cost of which was met by a special donation, was held, during November and December, in preparation for the first Parish and District Council elections.

‡ Income of the Red Van Trust reduced by £100, owing to the death of Wm. Saunders on May 1st.

§ Income reduced by £250 from same cause. The campaign was brought to a close on an earlier date than was at first intended, owing to the bad weather, which made the holding of nightly outdoor meetings impossible.

¶ The five-year guarantee of £1,000 a year expired at end of 1896, and could not be renewed owing to the death of some of the guarantors. The surviving guarantors generously contributed £400 (including £100 from the "Diegenes Fund") towards the campaign of 1897.

THE "RED VAN" FUND.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, JANUARY 29TH, 1897—MARCH 30TH, 1898.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward, January 29th, 1897	200	11	6	Vans—Repairs, Fittings, & Utensils (on account)	20	13	6
Subscriptions (as per list on p. 241, 1897)	439	2	0	Salaries—Lecturers	108	0	0
" " 1898	4,147	0	0	Drivers (including Horse Hire)	100	0	0
Advisees (see Report for 1891)	6	0	0	Organising Expenses at Central Office	60	8	6
				Travelling Expenses—Postage, Telegraphs, Packets, and Poundage on Postal Orders	277	13	6
				Advertisers, Billposting, and Distribution	50	10	5½
				Stand for Vans, Stabling, and Tolls	1	6	6
				Oil, Washing, Candles, and Sundries	9	11	3
				Stationery, Maps, Directories, and Parliamentary Papers	3	8	7
				Warehousing Vans and Utensils in London (on account)	5	1	6½
				Insurance	6	0	0
				Bank Charges	2	2	0
				Balance carried forward	177	9	2½
					£656	1	2

Examined and found correct,

SAMUEL J. BOYCE,

Chartered Accountant.

London, April, 1898.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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The guarantee of £1,000 a year for five years expired in 1886, and, owing to the death of several of the guarantors, and the inability of others to continue their subscriptions, the continuance of the Red Van work, during 1888 and succeeding years, is wholly dependent upon the raising of a new fund.

The Executive earnestly appeal to all Members and Friends of the League, and to all who feel that useful work has been done by the Red Vans in their own or other counties during the past seven years, for immediate help, in subscriptions or donations, towards the "West Riding" Red Van Fund of 1898.

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